

Remarks

Claims 22-26 and 35-41 have been allowed and claims 32-34 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 27 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 32 including intervening claim 30, claims 30, 32, and 34 have been cancelled, and dependent claims 31 and 33 have been amended to properly depend from amended claim 27. No new matter has been added. Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Rejections of claim 27

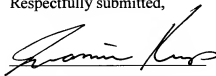
Claim 27 has been rejected under the doctrine of double patenting over claim 1 and 9 of US Patent 6,351,248 and over claims 10 or 18 of US Patent 6,724,350. A terminal disclaimer was inadvertently omitted from the previous response and the double patenting rejection was maintained in so far as the terminal disclaimer had not been received. Additionally, claim 27 is rejected under 35 USC 103. Rather than filing the terminal disclaimer with the present response, Applicants have chosen to amend claim 27 to include subject matter previously deemed allowable such that the double patenting rejection and the section 103 rejection are obviated without reliance upon a terminal disclaimer or further argument. Accordingly, the double patenting rejection and the section 103 rejection may be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 22-27 and 29, 31, 33, and 35-41 is in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendment and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,



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